

## Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 FBIE-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

SY-10 /036 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EA:CHILL:YLP

APPROVED BY CU/EA:WJCUNNINGHAM

EA/PRCM - MR. BROOKS (SUBST)

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FBI - MR. WOOD (SUBST)

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R 272146Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192852

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC TW

SUBJECT: PEKING MAN FOSSILS

1. CHRISTOPHER JANUS, WEALTHY CHICAGO INVESTMENT BROKER WHO HAS DEVOTED MUCH OF THE LAST SIX MONTHS TO SEARCHING FOR PEKING MAN FOSSILS, WILL ARRIVE IN TAIPEI OCTOBER 1 IN PURSUIT OF HIS LATEST LEADS.

2. JANUS, WHO TOURED PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA EARLY THIS YEAR, WAS ASKED BY MAINLAND MUSEUM OFFICIALS TO INVESTIGATE WHEREABOUTS OF FOSSILS. JANUS GOT IMPRESSION THAT PRC MAY CONSIDER FOSSILS TO BE USG RESPONSIBILITY.

3. FOSSILS DISAPPEARED IN 1941 WHEN PEKING UNION MEDICAL COLLEGE HANDED THEM OVER TO US MARINE CORPS DETACHMENT IN NORTH CHINA FOR EVACUATION TO US. FOSSILS WERE PUT ABOARD TRAIN IN PEKING BUT NEVER REACHED TIENTSIN AND HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE- VARIOUS RUMORS HAVE PLACED  
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FOSSILS IN PEKING WAREHOUSE, JAPANESE IMPERIAL PALACE,

AND A CELLAR IN HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY- ALTHOUGH PRC HAS NOT ASKED FOR USG HELP IN LOCATING FOSSILS, WE ARE MAKING SERIOUS EFFORT TO DETERMINE FACTS SURROUNDING THEIR LOSS. EXTENSIVE FBI INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR SOME TIME, INDEPENDENT OF JANUS' SEARCH.

4. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO ONE HAS YET FOLLOWED UP LEADS WHICH POINT TO TAIWAN. JANUS PLANS TO CHECK OUT TWO REPORTS: A) ANDREW SZE, NEW YORK CITY STOCKBROKER, CLAIMS THAT FOSSILS FOUND THEIR WAY TO TAIWAN WHERE THEY WERE ACQUIRED BY HIGH KMT OFFICIAL, NOW DECEASED. SZE SAYS OFFICIAL'S ADOPTED DAUGHTER, WHO IS MARRIED TO NATIONALIST ARMY OFFICER, NOW HAS FOSSILS. SZE SAYS HE CAN ARRANGE RETURN OF FOSSILS, BUT FOR A PRICE. B) ROC AIR FORCE LT. COL. WEI TA-NIEN, NOW ASSIGNED TO WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB IN OHIO, CLAIMS TO HAVE MET KMT GENERAL (UNNAMED) WHO SUPERVISED TRANSPORT OF CHINA'S NATIONAL ART TREASURES FROM MAINLAND TO TAIWAN IN 1948-49. WEI SAYS GENERAL TOLD HIM FOSSILS WERE INCLUDED AMONG TREASURES AND WEI SPECULATES THEY NOW MAY BE IN NATIONAL PALACE MUSEUM STOREROOMS.

5. WHILE THIS AFFAIR HAS SOME UNUSUAL FEATURES, WE ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FOSSILS. JANUS IS PURSUING THE SOLUTION TO THIS MYSTERY WITH GREAT INTENSITY, BUT HE STRIKES US AS A BASICALLY REASONABLE PERSON WHOSE SEARCH MIGHT TURN UP SOME USEFUL EVIDENCE. JANUS PLANS TO CALL AT EMBASSY BEFORE BEGINNING HIS INVESTIGATION. YOU SHOULD OFFER APPROPRIATE COURTESIES AND ANY INFORMATION IN YOUR POSSESSION WHICH MIGHT SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE MATTER. YOU SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, OFFER JANUS ANY ASSISTANCE WHICH MIGHT LEAD GRC TO CONCLUDE THAT USG INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH JANUS' INVESTIGATION. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN PERIODIC CONTACT WITH JANUS AND HE UNDERSTANDS THIS POSITION, WHICH YOU SHOULD REITERATE TO HIM. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE192852  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** CHILL:YLP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS CUNNINGHAM  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973095/aaaaador.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN CU  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2001 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PEKING MAN FOSSILS  
**TAGS:** OEXC, TW  
**To:** TAIPEI  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005